

SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

4/19/05

THIRD READING

SB 226 (Gilbert)

SB 226 would establish an agricultural advisory roundtable within the Dept. of Environmental Quality to look at how laws and policies administered by DEQ affect farmers and agribusiness, and offering advice and recommendations on these laws and policies.

Support: Michigan Agribusiness Association, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Food Processing Association, Newaygo County Economic Development Office -- Creating this roundtable will provide farmers and others in the farm industry with a voice in the regulatory process that directly affects them. These stakeholders currently do not have input regarding the fees and other regulations imposed upon them. This creates an undue burden and is unfair to those most directly affected.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was defeated.
- Gilbert 2 (S-2) was adopted. This would change the commission from an advisory/decision-making body to a roundtable in order to provide a forum for discussion of regulations affecting agribusiness and food processors. The director of DEQ will consult with the legislature in determining whom to invite to participate in the roundtable.
- SB 226 was moved to 3rd Reading.

HBs 4012-13 (Meyer)

HBs 4012-13 would require that notices of local (tax increment financing authority) hearings be mailed by certified mail to the treasurer, clerk, and chairperson of the board of commissioners of the county in which the authority district or business district was proposed to be located. The goal of the bills is to ensure that local units of government give sufficient and proper notice to all taxing jurisdictions of any planned expansions, thus avoiding repetition of a problem that recently occurred in Tuscola County, where county officials and officials of a village disagreed over whether there had been proper notification of the establishment of a tax increment financing authority.

- HB 4012 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.
 HB 4013 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

HB 4227 (Ward)

HB 4227 would allow county commissioners to adjust their salaries in the middle of their two year term like other county employees. Under current law, county commissioners are sworn in on odd years. Compensation changes must take place at the end of the even year prior to swearing in. The rationale behind this is a board of commissioners should not establish their compensation level. There appears to be some confusion whether a county board may change their compensation throughout their term even if that level is established prior to being sworn into office.

Support: Michigan Association of Counties.

- Birkholz 1 (2 amends) was adopted. Clarifying language. HB 4227 was moved to 3rd Reading.